

Polar Magic with Joshua Holko - Thursday 19th May.

Club members were treated to a night of 'Polar Magic' with presenter Joshua Holko who is full-time professional landscape, nature and wildlife photographer. Joshua is an extreme adventurer who runs workshops and expeditions to some of the world's wildest and remotest regions. He specialises in the Polar and sub-Polar regions of the globe where his photography celebrates the extreme latitudes of the Polar environment. An ambassador for the Polar Regions, Joshua gave up the corporate world to pursue his true passion for photography. The story of his adventures, in particular his search to photograph Polar Bears, was truly amazing and the images he captured were breathtaking. The presentation included his thoughts and photographs from his recent Winter expedition to Ellesmere Island in search of the White Wolf as well as tips on how to approach Polar wildlife for the best possible photographs.

"I might be photographing a bear from 100 metres away, but a bear can run 100 metres in 7 seconds so I have my snow mobile always running. They are remarkable creatures. They have an acute sense of hearing and they can smell a seal mile off under the sea ice".

We also saw some wonderful images of other Polar Region wildlife including the Artic Fox, Emperor Penguins, Wolves and Wolverines in 'no-man's land' between Finland and Russia and the Snowy Owl in Canada. Joshua shared some of his top tips for photographing wildlife in extreme conditions, but said they can be applied across all wildlife photography.

- The success of photographing wildlife depends on how much you know about the particular animal. Learn about where they live and pay attention to the surrounding environment. It is important when telling a story of wildlife to have the environment showing.
- Photograph what you like and pay attention to where the animal is looking and include negative space for good results. Don't need to show all the animal.
- Look for strong engagement with the animal and capture the emotion in the image. Rim light can make images stronger and more emotional. A sense of scale is important.
- Use back lighting and silhouettes and consider monochrome to enhance your images. Experiment with depth of field. Experiment different shutter speeds.
- Well framed subjects make for a stronger image.

"I feel a deep sense of responsibility in capturing the truth within each given moment. Shooting with integrity is core to representing life in polar regions".

Equipment: Joshua uses zoom lenses because they can provide the best opportunities to frame shots in camera.

- Wide end lenses like 16-35mm, 11-24, or 14-24mm are ideal.
- Mid-range zoom such as a 24-70 or 24-105mm.
- Medium telephoto 70-200mm or 100-400mm.
- For bird photography something like a 400mm F4DO or 300mm F2.8 with a 1.4 extender is generally a better choice than a 500 or 600mm lens as it's much easier to handhold.
- He likes to shoot wildlife at very fast apertures for narrow depth of field so tends to choose F2.8 lenses where possible. He often adds a 300mm F2.8L IS specifically for the narrow depth of field and the telephoto compression that this lens offers.

Search for Joshua Holko on the internet for photos and information or follow him on:

<https://blog.jholko.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/Joshuaholko> Joshua Holko (@joshua_holko) Instagram